

## Message Text

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S/S

AGRICULTURE: MR. GOODMAN (DRAFT)

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TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212572

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP, IV (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX)

SUBJ: HOUPHOUET STATE VISIT: WRAPUP

1. SUMMARY: DURING THE TWO-WEEK SOJOURN IN UNITED STATES, INCLUDING SIX-DAY STATE VISIT, PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND PARTY HEARD PRESIDENT NIXON AND OTHER US PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS PRAISE IVORY COAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXCELLENT STATE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HOUPHOUET AND HIS MINISTERS REAFFIRMED IVORY COAST'S DESIRE FOR INCREASED US PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND FOR CONTINUING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COOPERATION. AS DETAILED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE REPORTS, IVORY COAST PRESIDENT RECEIVED FULL SCALE STATE RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON AT WHITE HOUSE OCT. 9.

HOUPHOUET, WHO HAD ARRIVED IN NEW YORK SIX DAYS EARLIER, SPENT EVENING AT CAMP DAVID PRIOR TO HELICOPTER ARRIVAL ON ELIPSE. TWO PRESIDENTS MET FOR ABOUT EIGHTY MINUTES

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OCT. 9 AND AGAIN BRIEFLY PRECEEDING HOUPHOUET'S DEPARTURE

FROM WASHINGTON OCT. 11. CONCURRENT WITH FIRST MEETING ASSTSECY NEWSOM AND DEPTOFFS MET IN CABINET ROOM WITH FONMIN USHER AND OTHER MINISTERS IN PARTY. THE SECRETARY WAS HOST FOR LUNCHEON AT DEPARTMENT. PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON RECEIVED IVORIANS AT STATE DINNER. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGHLIGHTS: ON SECOND DAY OF HOUPHOUET'S HEAVY WASHINGTON SCHEDULE BREAKFAST AT BLAIR HOUSE WAS ATTENDED BY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. HE ALSO MET WORLD BANK PRESIDENT, AGRICULTURE, AND EXIM BANK CHAIRMAN. AS SCHEDULED, HOUPHOUET RECEIVED HONORARY LL.D. AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, AND HE LAID WREATH AT TOMB OF UNKNOWN SOLDIER. HE ADDRESSED NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON GROUP AND RECEIVED AFRICAN AMBASSADORS AT BLAIR HOUSE.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF MRS. HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S SEPARATE PROGRAM INCLUDED TEA GIVEN BY MRS. NIXON AND ATTENDED BY WIVES OF AFRICAN AMBASSADORS.

4. DURING CALIFORNIA PORTION OF VISIT HOUPHOUET WAS PRESENTED KEY TO LOS ANGELES BY MAYOR BRADLEY, WHO WAS HOST AT DINNER HONORING IVORIANS LATER THAT EVENING. IVORIANS VISITED DISNEYLAND AND PRESIDENT MET WITH IVORIAN STUDENTS. IN SAN FRANCISCO, HOUPHOUET WAS HONORED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DINNER, VISITED BAY AREA, AND HELD BUSINESS MEETINGS. CONCLUDING OFFICIAL PORTION OF VISIT, HE RETURNED TO NEW YORK OCT. 15 WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL DEPARTURE OCT. 18 ABOARD SS FRANCE. HE MET WITH UN SYG WALDHEIM AND SEVERAL US BUSINESS LEADERS IN THIS PERIOD.

5. THEMES. IN MANY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS DURING VISIT, HOUPHOUET STRESSED HIS RESPECT AND HIGH REGARD FOR US AND FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S LEADERSHIP. HE REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR WORLD PEACE, FREQUENTLY CITING NEED FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST FIGHTING. HE CONSISTENTLY REFERRED TO IVORY COAST AS BEING PART OF BOTH AFRICAN AND UNDERDEVELOPED WORLDS, AND CALLED UPON DEVELOPED NATIONS TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO DO MORE FOR POORER NATIONS. IN PRIVATE MEETINGS, HE URGED US TO CONSULT MORE

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CLOSELY WITH EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ON AID TO AFRICA.

6. HOUPHOUET'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB APPEARANCE WAS PERHAPS HIS BEST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, ALTHOUGH COVERAGE WAS LIMITED BY THE US PRESS'S ALMOST TOTAL PREOCCUPATION WITH MIDDLE EAST AND VICE PRESIDENT. HE DISCUSSED GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST, STRESSING THROUGHT HIS HOPE FOR PEACE AND THE IDEA OF AFRICAN

BROTHERHOOD.

7. PRESIDENT NIXON AND THE SECRETARY, IN TOASTS, HAILED HOUPHOUET AS MAN OF PEACE. THE PRESIDENT CALLED IVORY COAST LEADER "WORLD STATESMAN OF THE FIRST RANK."

8. PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS: CABINET ROOM MEETING, CHAIRED JOINTLY BY NEWSOM AND USHER PROVIDED OCCASION FOR TOUR D'HORIZON ON POLITICAL AND AID QUESTIONS. NEWSOM OUTLINED CURRENT US AFRICAN POLICIES AND ALLUDED TO GOIC'S SOUTH AFRICA "DIALOGUE," BUT NOTED THAT US ENDORSES

NO SPECIFIC APPROACH. HE SUGGESTED MODERATE AFRICAN NATIONS COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN POLICIES. HE ALSO URGED GOIC TO SUPPORT KHMER REPUBLIC'S CREDENTIALS IN CURRENT UNGA SESSION.

9. IVORIANS STRESSED THEIR NEED TO AFFIRM AFRICA'S INDEPENDENCE, BUT CITED DANGERS POSED BY FANATICISM AND COMMUNISM. THEY ALSO NOTED ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT NOW AN AFRICAN ISSUE. THEY REPEATED THEIR CONVICTION THAT "BIG POWERS" CAN BE INSTRUMENTAL IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO ME PROBLEM, AS WELL AS PROBLEM OF LIBERATION PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES. IVORIANS WERE NON-COMMITTAL BUT CLEARLY SKEPTICAL OF THE VIABILITY OF GKR. THE IVORIANS INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBLE NEW PROGRAMS OF US ASSISTANCE WHICH MIGHT APPLY TO IVORY COAST. WHEN TOLD THAT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES INDICATED LIKELIHOOD OF FURTHER REDUCTIONS RATHER THAN INCREASES, IVORIANS ASKED WHETHER USG HAD ANY DEFINABLE POLICY TO WHICH AFRICANS CAN RESPOND. NEWSOM POINTED TO INCLINATION TO CONCENTRATE US ASSISTANCE IN HEALTH, AGRICULTURAL, AND LIVESTOCK SECTORS AND TO LEAVE BIG CAPITAL PROJECTS TO MULTILATERAL AGENCIES.  
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10. DURING SECRETARY OF COMMERCE'S CALL, HOUPHOUET URGED US TO REVIEW ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMODITY AGREEMENTS ON COFFEE AND COCOA, STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF THESE COMMODITIES TO IVORY COAST'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY. HE CALLED SMALL FARMER SATISFACTION A KEY TO GOIC'S ABILITY TO PROMOTE TWIN POLICIES OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH WEST. SECRETARY DENT NOTED UPWARD TREND IN COMMODITY PRICES. HE PROMISED, NEVERTHELESS, TO LOOK INTO QUESTION OF AGREEMENTS AND EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF IVORIAN POSITION.

11. SECRETARY OF TREASURY NOTED US PROVIDES 40 PERCENT OF ALL CONCESSIONAL AID AND DEFENDED HIS NAIROBI POSITION ON IDA REPLENISHMENT AND THE LINK, WHICH HOUPHOUET HAD

EARLIER CITED AS A SOURCE OF THIRD-WORLD "ANXITIES." SECRETARY SCHULTZ SAID TERMS OF TRADE HAVE ON THE WHOLE TURNED IN FAVORABLE DIRECTION FOR LDC'S. HE NOTED OUR STRENUOUS OBJECTION TO REVERSE PREFERENCES. HOUPHOUET RESPONDED THAT PROBLEM IS "EVOLVING" AND EEC IS ABANDONING RECIPROCITY.

12. HOUPHOUET ASKED SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ WHETHER THE US COULD HELP IVORY COAST IMPROVE CORN PRODUCTION AND IN STARTING SOYBEAN PRODUCTION. SECRETARY BUTZ AGREED IN PRINCIPLE BUT FORM IN WHICH TECHNICAL ADVICE COULD BE PROVIDED IN THESE TWO AREAS LEFT FOR LATER DETERMINATION. HOUPHOUET ASKED WHETHER HE COULD SEND HIS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TO THE US NEXT APRIL OR MAY TO STUDY US PRACTICES IN CORN AND SOYBEAN CULTIVATION. BUTZ SAID MINAG WOULD BE WELCOME.

13. CHAIRMAN KEARNS OF EXIM REITERATED EXIM'S HIGH REGARD FOR CREDIT RATING OF IVORY COAST AND ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER FINANCING ANY PROJECT WHICH GOIC MIGHT WISH TO SUBMIT.

14. COMMERCIAL CONTACTS: THE IVORIANS HAD EXTENSIVE COMMERCIAL CONTACTS IN COURSE OF THEIR VISIT, MOST OF WHICH TOOK PLACE IN NEW YORK BEFORE AND AFTER STATE VISIT. HOUPHOUET PARTICIPATED PERSONALLY IN MANY SESSIONS. INCLUDED WERE TALKS WITH EXECUTIVES OF LANG, KAISER, PICKANDS-CONFIDENTIAL

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MATHER, BANKERS TRUST, CHASE MANHATTAN, AMERICAN SECURITY AND TRUST, AND FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK. HOUPHOUET HOUPHOUET ALSO MET WITH CONGRESSMAN VANDER JAGT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF US FIRMS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE IN ABIDJAN AND GAVE GOIC APPROVAL FOR GROUP TO MOVE AHEAD WITH FEASIBILITY STUDY.

15. THE GOIC APPARENTLY DECIDED TO DELAY DECISION ON BANDAMA II AND EXPANSION OF SUGAR PROJECT, BUT ARRANGED ADDITIONAL FINANCING WITH CITIBANK FOR ADDITIONAL COSTS FIRST PHASE OF SUGAR PROJECT. PLANS TO PURCHASE PORTABLE DRILLING EQUIPMENT WERE REDUCED FROM DOLS 13 MILLION TO DOLS 5 MILLION (TO BE FINANCED BY AMERICAN SECURITY AND TRUST). CHASE MANHATTAN APPARENTLY HAVING DIFFICULTY COMING TERMS WITH GOIC FOR THEIR PROPOSED ABIDJAN BRANCH. PICKANDS MATHER ADVISES THAT EXPLORATION CONSORTIUM IS STILL NOT FORMED, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE SHOOTING FOR EARLY NOVEMBER. THE IVORIANS BARGAINED HARD AND HELD THEIR COUNSEL DURING THE VISIT, AND MOST ITEMS ON COMMERCIAL AGENDA REMAIN FOR LATER CONCLUSION (ALTHOUGH KAISER AND LANG STILL APPEAR TO HAVE INSIDE TRACK ON SECOND DAM AND

EXPANSION SUGAR PROJECT, RESPECTIVELY).

16. CONCLUSION: THE VISIT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN ADVANCING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HOUPHOUET WAS PLEASED BY HIS PROGRAM AND WITH HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER OFFICIALS, AND SAID SO. OUR AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT IN THE COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS

WERE AIRED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF POLITE FRANKNESS, BUT IN NO WAY DID THEY COLOR THE VISIT. US PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS DISAPPOINTING, BUT THE NEWS COMPETITION WAS OVERWHELMING. THE RESTRAINT OF THE IVORIANS IN THEIR COMMERCIAL DEALINGS IS A REMINDER OF THEIR PRAGMATISM AND OF THE COMPETING ELEMENTS WITH WHICH US PRIVATE INDUSTRY MUST COPE IN DEALING IN IVORY COAST.

17. MEMCONS AND OTHER MATERIALS BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

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